Demand of organic crops of Maharashtra in international market

1958. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is more demand of organic crops of Maharashtra in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by Government to farmers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The global market for organic products at present is estimated to be US $ 26 billion per annum. This demand is growing at the rate of 20-30% per annum. No separate data relating to demand for organic crops of Maharashtra is maintained by the Government.

(c) The Government implements a Central Sector Scheme called the "National Project on Organic Farming" for production, promotion and market development of organic farming. The main components of the scheme are:

(i) A system of certification of organic produce.

(ii) Capacity building through service providers.

(iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like fruits and vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production and hatcheries for vermiculture.

(iv) Training, field demonstration, promotion and market development.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides financial assistance to exporters including farmer-exporters for infrastructure development, market development, quality development and transport assistance.